

THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY

ENTERTAINING THE DELEGATES FROM FRANCE.

HONORS FROM THE CITY, A WELCOME DOWN TOWN, AND A RECEPTION AT THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB.

The French guests, headed by MM. Bartholdi and Ferdinand de Lesseps, arrived at the Mayor's office promptly at 2 P. M. yesterday. They were welcomed by Mayor Grace, who, with Private Secretary Turner, escorted the visitors to the Aldermanic Chamber, where the Common Council was in session. The proceedings of the meeting were suspended when the Mayor and the guests of the city entered. The chamber was decorated with French and American flags, and about the portrait of Lafayette were entwined the standards of France and America. President Nooney received the gentlemen and Mayor Grace addressed M. Bartholdi as follows:

"The citizens of New-York take a special and peculiar pride in the great statue which to-day stands at the entrance to our harbor. They are not, indeed, unmindful of the national significance of the generous and splendid gift of your people to the people of the United States, and they fully share the national enthusiasm which that gift has aroused. They feel, as do all patriotic citizens, the debt of gratitude which they owe to the brave nation that allied itself with their forefathers in the dark days of the Revolution, and which aided them in fighting the battle of liberty, whose outcome was destined to lend so deep an impulse to the cause of freedom throughout the civilized world. But they are, in a more narrow and strictly local sense, gratified that this beautiful Goddess of Liberty, the creation of your imagination, is to stand at their gateways, and they have wished to mark their gratification by an extraordinary expression of esteem for the man whose genius has conceived and whose energy has carried to successful completion the splendid work which to-morrow is to be unveiled to the world.

"Accordingly I have been chosen by the Common Council of the city of New-York, representing her citizens, to bestow upon you the freedom of their city. This unusual mark of respect will add nothing to your laurels. Your name is inseparably associated with the great work which owes its existence to your genius, and will undoubtedly find an appropriate and lasting place in the memory of a great people. I, therefore, in the name of the citizens of New-York, present to you full freedom to their city, and avail myself of the occasion to express, in their behalf, their gratitude to the author and creator of the statue which will forever remain a splendid ornament of their metropolis."

M. Bartholdi replied by saying that he was doubly moved by the most exceptional honor paid him, and was satisfied beyond measure at his reception by the people and authorities of New-York. As to the work which the people of America have been pleased to accept at the hands of their French brethren, it was the work not alone of his hands, but the work of many of his countrymen. He had the strongest friendship for the people of America.

M. L. Deschamps, Vice-President of the Paris Municipal Council, thanked the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the courtesies extended to himself and colleagues. He remarked that he was greatly impressed with the public institutions in and about the city, and extolled the Normal College. After a good deal of handshaking all round the Frenchmen went to the Produce Exchange.

It was open house at the Produce Exchange, and according to their own delighted testimony the visitors had a reception which surpassed anything of the kind that they ever witnessed. Every member and every member's down-town friends were there to greet them. Louder and longer cheers could not have rung through the building when they filed into the Board Room, a little after 2 o'clock, and took places to which President McGee escorted them.

When the lull came, President McGee made a speech of welcome. "We welcome you," he said, "in the name of commerce, commerce that lights its torch at the flames of liberty and is the pioneer of civilization. We welcome you in the name of law, for though this is a building for commerce, upon its walls is written equity. We welcome you in the name of the arts and sciences, for though we are a commercial community, yet the architect of this building has here bountifully blended beauty and utility. And we welcome you in name of religion, for though this building be devoted to commerce, it was dedicated with prayer. We extend to you the freedom of this building while you shall be pleased to remain in this place; and we trust that your stay will be not only pleasant but profitable to you, and that the fires of liberty shall be rekindled afresh in the hearts of these sister republics, and that they may extend the benefits of liberty among the nations of the earth."

Another volley of cheers followed the speech, to be taken up anew when M. Hielard, representing the Chamber of Commerce of Paris, rose to respond. His sentences, in French, were punctuated by the most earnest applause. M. de Lesseps next spoke with much warmth and vigor in his native tongue and the auditors went wild in applauding him, fully making up in enthusiasm what they lacked in comprehension.

M. Bartholdi, who was next presented, could not speak until the brokers and their friends had simply tired out their throats. Then he went at it in well shattered English, which struck a responsive chord at every few words and covered him all over with glory.

"Mr. President and gentlemen," he began, "I am sorry not to be able to speak quite in the characteristic way of the temple that has been spoken of here—the Temple of Commerce. I am not able, as you may suppose, to know of its value, but if I cannot know it of my own experience, of my own knowledge, I know it by my feelings. When I entered here I had an artistic feeling about what you are doing here, although I didn't know it exactly, because it is not my business, but I could not help feeling that you make grand things here, that you are doing what is best with your activity. Nobody can help feeling that on entering here. I had the same feeling when I first came to New-York and saw the city, and I have felt compelled to pay the tribute of our admiration for what you are doing. You will excuse me if I cannot make a speech. I am laboring under a double difficulty; first, it is not my language, and second, because I am not well acquainted with commercial things. But I believe if I speak only of my feelings it is quite enough to be understood by you. On behalf of my friends, as well as on my own behalf, I thank you from my heart for this consideration."

When the speeches ended the Exchange Glee Club started up the "Marseillaise," to the stirring strains of which a procession, composed of pretty much everybody present, marched to the Managers' room, where M. Bartholdi, M. de Lesseps, and the others were separately introduced to those who could get near enough to shake hands with them. Afterward the visitors were shown over the building. When they took their leave, at a little before 4 o'clock, the brokers cheered them all the way to their carriages.

The scene at the Union League Club last night, when a reception and banquet were given to Count Ferdinand de Lesseps and the members of the French delegation, was one which will hardly be forgotten by those who were present. The handsome building was ablaze with lights, and everything that could be done to add a gala appearance to the club was done, no detail being escaped. When the visitor entered last evening he saw the spacious hall—one corner of which was occupied by a band of musicians, who played the popular music of the day—all decorated with flags. Up stairs were the theatre, the stage of which was completely hidden in a mass of flowers, foliage, and tricolor bunting; the library, which the genial little librarian had spent the day in arranging; and the picture gallery, in which every one of the numerous gas jets was lighted, and which was packed with gentlemen to such an extent that circulation was extremely difficult. Still further up was the little alcove dressing room in which the banquet for the delegates and the American committee was laid. Here it was that the talent of V. Camovito had been exercised, and Mr. Camovito had excelled even himself. In this room was a bronze statue of Liberty Enlightening the World, the torch of which was bright with electric light.

The "pieces" on the table in this and the general banqueting rooms were of the most elaborate order. There were a large white sugar model representing Washington and Lafayette at the fort, the French frigate *Minerva* in a trellis work of brown sugar, the flagship *Tennessee*, a huge pyramid of Parisian nougat representing the column of the Bastille, and a gigantic decorated salmon, supposed to be swimming in the Seine, which was shown in real water filled with fish, alive and frisky. The floral pieces were numerous. There was a mound of white and red roses, with violets, representing the French colors, while *Gloire de Dijon*, *La France*, and *Maréchal Niel* roses greeted the eye in all directions. There was also a huge statue of Liberty made in sugar.

The rooms and corridors were soon crowded, and everybody seemed to be shaking hands with everybody else. Among them were Senator William M. Evarts, Chauncey M. Depew, Richard Butler, Lieut.-Gov. Edward F. Jones, Gen. Josiah Porter, Lieutenant Commander R. M. Berry Gen. J. M. Varian, Rear-Admiral A. C. Rhind, Gen. Sheridan, Col. Sheridan, Judge Van Brunt, Gen. J. B. Fry, Major James Walter, of England, Judge Van Hoesen, Mr. Vanderhicken, Naval Officer Silas W. Burt, Gen. Egbert L. Viele, Mayor Whitney, of Brooklyn; the Hon. Noah Davis, A. R. Lawrence, the Hon. George P. Andrews, Major-Gen. Schofield, Cyrus W. Field, Russell Sage, James R. Garfield, Harry A. Garfield, Ensign Almy, Commander Robeson, Lieut. Meigs, Lieut. Abbott, Prof. Michie, of West Point; Prof. Postlethwaite, Medical Inspector J. C. Spears, Lieut. Waltz, Jules Aldige, Gen. Lloyd Bryce, Gen. W. D. Whipple, Judge-Advocate Asa Bird Gardiner, Gen. R. W. Jackson, Lieut. Randolph, Lieut.-Col. Winthrop, of West Point; G. W. Childs, James McGee, Gen. Fitzgerald, Charles J. Canda, Capt. F. M. Bruce, Lieut. Hunker, Judge Addison Brown, Col. John W. Pruyn, Lieut.-Col. R. F. Beirn, Commodore Gherardi, Gen. Rodenbough, T. W. Dwight, John H. Inman, United States Attorney Stephen A. Walker, Charles S. Fairchild, Algernon S. Sullivan, Sec-

retary of State Frederick Cook, Postmaster Pearson, J. M. Toucey, Howard Carroll, Major C. H. Davis, T. A. Havemeyer, John F. Dillon, W. P. Clyde, S. P. Nash, Ward McAllister, O. D. Baldwin, Dr. Fordyce Barker, Robert Gordon, W. B. Whitney, and A. S. Barnes.

The gentlemen wandered about the rooms until 9:30 o'clock, when they assembled in the theatre. There the French guests were soon led. William M. Evarts escorted Count Ferdinand de Lesseps; Auguste Bartholdi entered on the arm of Chauncey M. Depew. The other guests followed two by two, and the distinguished procession walked down the middle of the room. The band struck up "La Marseillaise," and the guests were soon in the midst of an eager throng anxious to shake their hands. Everything was of a thoroughly informal nature. Not a speech was made in the theatre; in fact it was so crowded with flowers and gentlemen that the space necessary for a speaker could not have been found. Count de Lesseps was conducted all over the club by Senator Evarts, and it was not until nearly 11 o'clock that the guests sat down to dinner. The menu was full of good French things, such as "Trophée de langue écarlate républicaine," "L'arbre de faisan mystérieuse," "Bouchées à la Princesse," and "Pain de foin gras en Bellevue." Then there were such dishes as "Galantine de chapon à la Union League," "Terrapin à la Maryland," and "Pâté à la Lucullus." The French guests, in addition to M. Bartholdi and the Count de Lesseps, were Admiral Jaurès, Gen. Pelissier, M. Spuller, M. Desmons, M. Deschamps, M. Léon Robert, Col. Bureaux de Pusy, Col. Laussédad, Lieut. Villegenté, M. Hielard, Charles Bigot, Napoléon Ney, Auguste Caubert, Baron Salvador, Georges A. Glaenzer, Hector de Castro, Léon Mounier, M. Rajou, Albert Thomegeux, M. Goudechaux, and M. Buchot.

Letters of regret were received from President Cleveland, ex-President Chester A. Arthur, Col. Daniel Lamont, Gen. W. T. Sherman, Roscoe Conkling, Archbishop Corrigan, Chief-Justice Waite, Turkish Minister R. Kuki, Secretary of the Treasury Daniel Manning, and Mgr. Quinn.

Cyrus W. Field yesterday entertained M. de Lesseps at a breakfast at Delmonico's. The guests, besides M. de Lesseps and his daughter, Mlle. Ferdinande, were as follows: Napoleon Ney, the Hon. Levi P. Morton, ex-Minister to France; ex-Chief-Justice Daly, Gen. Charles F. Stone, William Dorsheimer, Joseph Pulitzer, George W. Smalley, Logan C. Murray, President of the United States National Bank; the Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, the Rev. Dr. Henry M. Field, and J. M. Bundy.

M. Bartholdi and the French delegation accompanying him will be given a banquet at the Hotel Brunswick by Lafayette Post, No. 140, G. A. R., on Tuesday evening, Nov. 2.